

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 994

By Sparks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. George W. Smith of Murfreesboro.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. George W. Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dr. George Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born in Decherd on January 2, 1949, Dr. Smith was the son of Reverend George and Ophelia Smith; and

WHEREAS, a 1968 graduate of Franklin County High School, Dr. Smith graduated from Tennessee State University in 1971 and Meharry Medical College in 1975 with a focus on family practice and public health; and

WHEREAS, an accomplished physician, Dr. George Smith established Family Health Associates and began practicing medicine in July 1979; he was the first African-American physician to obtain hospital privileges at Middle Tennessee Medical Center; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith founded the first primary clinic in Eagleville in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health, and he later served as the department's medical director and Assistant Commissioner of Health; he was the medical director of Community Care of Rutherford County for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, an active member of his community, Dr. George Smith co-founded the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholarship Fund of Rutherford County in 1983, and he developed the Leadership Academy of the Dr. Martin Luther King Scholarship Fund; and

WHEREAS, an avid historian, Dr. Smith was a founding member of the 13th United States Colored Troops Living History Association and the African American Heritage Society of

Rutherford County; he was instrumental in saving what is now the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center, a symbol of African-American heritage in Murfreesboro; and

WHEREAS, chair of the Bradley Academy Museum and Cultural Center Advisory Board, Dr. George Smith was a member of the Murfreesboro Breakfast Rotary Club and the Middle Tennessee Civil War Round Table, and he served on the MidSouth Bank board of directors; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Dr. Smith earned a number of awards for his service to others and to his profession, including Saint Thomas Rutherford's Physician of the Year Award and the 2016 Olin Williams Distinguished Award for community service; and

WHEREAS, Dr. George Smith was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Smith enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of forty-four years, Toni Smith; he was the proud father of Sondra Smith and Sean Smith and the treasured grandfather of Margaret Lynn Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dr. George Smith was the beloved brother of Jimmy Smith, Daniel Smith, and Janice Kittrell; he is lovingly remembered by his parents and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends; and

WHEREAS, he was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Wilburt and Julia Moore, and his maternal grandparents, Berry and Flora Smith; and

WHEREAS, Dr. George Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Dr. George W. Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Dr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.